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News Release

Durham Fire Department

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Durham Fire Department Warns Residents of Fundraiser Scam

Department Isn't Asking For Monetary Donations

DURHAM, N.C. – The Durham Fire Department (DFD) is warning residents that recent phone calls to Durham residents soliciting funds for firefighters are not from the department.

Officials say they have received multiple inquiries from residents asking about a fundraiser to support firefighters. According to Deputy Fire Chief Chris Iannuzzi, the DFD never makes phone calls soliciting monetary support from the public. “It’s unfortunate that someone would try to compromise the community’s trust for public servants,” says Iannuzzi. “It’s important that residents know that we will never ask for money over the phone. There are isolated campaigns we support annually that will ask for donations, such as the “Fill the Boot” drive, but those funds are collected in a public setting, in person by uniformed personnel, and are widely advertised by the department. Anything else is likely a scam.”

According to Iannuzzi, it’s best that residents who receive these calls research the organization before donating anything. There may be legitimate organizations that support firefighters, but the DFD is not asking them to do so on behalf of the department.

The department is also offering these additional tips as a precaution:

- Never give out credit or debit card information over the phone.
- Check the City of Durham Fire Department Web page at <http://durhamnc.gov/620/Fire-Department> to check for authenticity of campaigns.
- Record the name and number of the requestor and report any suspicious activity to the Durham Police Department.

For more information, contact DFD Public Education Coordinator Sierra Mckoy at (919) 560-4233 ext. 19242 or by email at Sierra.Mckoy@DurhamNC.gov.

About the Durham Fire Department

The Durham Fire Department endeavors to prevent or minimize the harmful effects of fires, medical emergencies, and other types of dangerous events. The department offers fire education and suppression programs; enforces state and city fire codes; investigates arson and the causes of fires; provides basic training skills to recruits and in-service personnel and conducts a preventive fire maintenance program to ensure equipment is dependable and efficient. To learn more visit <http://durhamnc.gov/620/Fire-Department> or like at <http://Facebook.com/DurhamFireDepartment>.

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